Ministry of Justice

Plan for 2016-17

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Government of Saskatchewan

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Statement from the Ministers

The Honourable
Gordon S. Wyant, Q.C.

Minister of Justice and Attorney General

The Honourable
Christine Tell

Minister Responsible for Corrections and Policing

We are pleased to present the 2016-17 Plan for the Ministry of Justice. Government Direction and Budget for 2016-17 invests in people and infrastructure to *Keep Saskatchewan Strong*, and initiates a government wide exercise of transformational change to ensure the sustainability of high quality public services delivered in the most effective and efficient way possible.

This plan outlines how the Ministry of Justice will promote safety in our communities, support and protect people in vulnerable circumstances, and improve access to justice for Saskatchewan citizens. The Ministry is focused on finding innovative strategies to make access to justice understandable, timely and affordable for Saskatchewan citizens.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to keeping the people of Saskatchewan safe. By promoting effective policing and crime prevention, we will maintain and strengthen initiatives to foster community wellness across the province.

At the same time, we will review the current state of mental health and addictions services within the provincial correctional system and develop a response to the Government's Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan.

We are dedicated to working with our partners in the justice system to provide support and assistance to victims of crime and other individuals in vulnerable circumstances.

The Ministry of Justice will report on progress in the 2016-17 Annual Report.

Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to building on Saskatchewan's foundational strengths, investing in needed infrastructure and in vital programs and services for the people of our province. The Government has made a simple yet significant commitment – to *Keep Saskatchewan Strong.* This year marks the beginning of a government-wide exercise of transformational change to ensure the sustainability of high quality public services delivered in the most effective, efficient way possible.

This focus will advance Government toward the realization of Saskatchewan's Vision and goals.

Saskatchewan's Vision

"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Saskatchewan's Vision and goals provide the framework for ministries, agencies and third parties to align their programs and services and meet the needs of Saskatchewan's residents.

All ministries and agencies will report on progress in their 2016-17 annual reports.

Operational Plan

Mandate Statement

The Ministry of Justice provides a fair justice system that upholds the law and protects the rights of all individuals in Saskatchewan; promotes safe and secure communities; provides supervision and rehabilitation services for adult and young offenders; and provides legal and justice policy advice to government.

Mission Statement

The Ministry of Justice provides programs and services that all Saskatchewan citizens will benefit from, including:

- effective policing and crime prevention initiatives;
- a balanced and efficient prosecution service;
- effective administration services to support Saskatchewan's courts;
- support and assistance to victims of crime and other individuals in vulnerable circumstances;
- accessible and timely resolution of civil, family, criminal and administrative matters;
- offender management that promotes public safety and rehabilitation;
- strategies that reflect the cultural and demographic realities of the province;
- effective legal and strategic advice and services to government; and
- a framework for commercial transactions that supports business and protects the public.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Ministry Goal

A framework for commercial transactions that supports business and protects the public

Strategy

Foster and protect the Saskatchewan economy and its prosperity

Key Actions

- Actively seek involvement from additional government ministries and agencies in their future adoption of the Common Business Identifier as a means of streamlining service to their business customers.
- Amend the regulations governing registration of businesses in Saskatchewan as required to implement the new electronic Corporate Registry system being developed by Information Services Corporation (ISC). This work will be done in partnership with ISC and stakeholders.
- Continue to work with stakeholders to develop regulations under the new Insurance Act, which will modernize the regulation of the Saskatchewan insurance industry in accordance with the regulatory frameworks in place in other Canadian jurisdictions, primarily Alberta.
- Work with Ontario, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, and other provinces and territories who join the Cooperative System, toward implementation of a Cooperative Capital Markets Regulatory System, to better protect investors, support and foster efficiency and manage systemic risk in national capital markets.
- Implement legislation and regulations to authorize provincial regulation of Credit Union Central of Saskatchewan by January 2017.

- Further actions to support this strategy are carried out in partnership with the Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority (FCAA), a regulator and quasi-judicial adjudicator that protects Saskatchewan consumers, public interests and businesses by providing effective, balanced, and timely market regulation. FCAA is a Treasury Board Crown corporation assigned to the Minister of Justice and led by a seven person Board of Directors.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Ministry Goal

Safe and secure communities

Strategy

Promote effective policing and crime prevention initiatives

Key Actions

- Maintain and strengthen the network of groups known as Hubs which are comprised of front-line workers from human service agencies who provide immediate intervention and short-term solutions to individuals at risk of contact with the criminal justice system.
- Maintain and strengthen the network of Centres of Responsibility (CORs) which are dedicated teams of human service professionals that will develop longer term solutions to crime reduction and victimization.
- Lead the province's response to individuals at risk of extreme violence or radicalization with partners from RCMP, municipal policing services, mental health professionals, ethnic communities and religious communities.
- Develop and support initiatives to combat organized crime and gangs in the province through the Intelligence and Investigations Branch and specialized police units. This work will ensure proper communication between police and corrections officials in identifying and addressing high risk populations and high risk communities.
- Address violence in the communities of Sandy Bay, Deschambault Lake and Pelican Narrows through the Northern Integration Initiative. This partnership between the Ministry, the communities and the National Crime Prevention Centre – Public Safety Canada will address serious violent crime in Northern Saskatchewan by establishing programs and services for youth and young adults.
- Develop and implement a high priority/low risk provincial community program to assist and support local law enforcement in keeping our communities safe.
- Work with policing partners and SGI to strengthen two dedicated traffic safety enforcement units within the province to reduce traffic injuries and fatalities.

Strategy

Provide a balanced and efficient prosecution service

Key Actions

- Focus resources on serious violent offenders and offences.
- Review processes and realign resources to ensure the needs of the communities are being met through the most efficient and effective means.
- Examine the potential of reducing the use of preliminary inquiries in cooperation with the Federal Government. This will reduce the cost of the court system, prosecutions, legal aid and private defence.

Strategy

Manage offenders in a way to promote public safety and rehabilitation

Key Actions

- Expand programming to decrease offending in high risk families and for high risk violent offenders that will work toward reducing recidivism rates among these groups.
- Revitalize the delivery of reduced custody programs (including community training residences and community corrections) to improve supervision and support for offenders.
- Develop employment, education and literacy programs for offenders in custody to provide them with the skills necessary for integration into the community.
- Update and expand training programs for ministry staff who work with offenders so that they are better equipped to provide appropriate supervision and effective case management.
- Develop programs based on the findings of the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (Statistics Canada) research that identifies the small number of offenders that are responsible for a disporportinately large amount of business for police, courts and corrections.
- Strengthen the partnership with Statistics Canada and the University of Saskatchewan to continue predictive analysis in order to identify those most likely to reoffend.

Strategy

Provide a therapeutic approach for those with Mental Health issues and Addictions

Key Actions

- Evaluate the Police and Crisis Team (PACT) which allows police and mental health professionals to co-respond to persons experiencing mental health crises, diverting the individuals from the criminal system into the health system for care.
- Work with high risk violent youth with mental health disorders to decrease their potential for reoffending.
- Maintain psychological assessment services to offenders with serious mental health issues, while helping develop and train forensic psychologists in Saskatchewan. This action will help address the increasing number of offenders with mental health issues entering the system who require specialized treatment.
- Review the current state of mental health and addictions services within Saskatchewan's provincial correctional system and develop a response to the Government's Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan. This action will further the ability to assess and treat offenders with mental health and addictions issues while in custody and to help create a pool of resources for offenders in the community.
- Partner with local community leaders to develop and implement sustainable Community Alcohol Management Plans in two northern communities to minimize the nature and extent of harm caused by the misuse of alcohol.
- Work in partnership with the health region, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Central Services and SaskBuilds to continue development of the Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford - Integrated Correction Facility.

Ministry Goal

People in vulnerable circumstances are supported and protected

Strategy

Provide support and assistance to victims of crime and other individuals in vulnerable circumstances

Key Actions

- Maintain the successful pilot of the Child Protection Mediation Program to reduce conflict in child protection matters; increase collaborative decision making; and reduce the time required to develop appropriate plans for children in need of protection.
- Participate in community Hubs with other front line workers and human service agencies to provide immediate information on rights and responsibilities to tenants with mental health problems who are facing eviction by their landlord.
- Improve support to child witnesses/victims, particularly in cases of sexual offenses.
- Work with police and other justice partners to strengthen delivery of victim's services programs and related supports.
- Participate in developing and implementing government approaches to address mental health, addictions and disability.
- Implement the Saskatchewan Domestic Violence Death Review Process as part of the Saskatchewan response to interpersonal violence and abuse.

Ministry Goal

Improved access to justice

Strategy

Provide accessible and timely resolution of civil, family, criminal and administrative matters

Key Actions

- Undertake the Time to Resolution Pilot in Meadow Lake, a project to increase the use of a variety of early assessment and resolution processes to reduce the time required to resolve disputes.
- Continue implementation of the Family Matters: Assisting Families through Separation and Divorce program to help provide families with early intervention and resolution as opposed to the traditional court system.
- Engage in public consultations and analysis regarding expanding the role of legal service providers who are not lawyers, with a view to making recommendations, including potentially legislation if necessary.
- Implement changes to the Small Claims Court processes and legislation. This will allow citizens to pursue claims with greater ease of access, lower costs and quicker outcomes.
- Identify options to increase diversion from traditional court systems by providing individuals who take responsibility for their actions an opportunity to address the harm they caused by making reparations to their victim and their community.
- Work with ministry partners to develop a justice clinic or Justice Access Centre (JAC) in Regina. This clinic or JAC will work with a number of community partners to provide justice services to citizens most in need.
- Pilot an administrative tribunal support model to provide better support for tribunals and service for their users.
- Strengthen the problem solving court model to address addictions, mental health and domestic violence matters as an adjunct to the traditional court system.
- Undertake a review of services currently available to assist citizens who wish to access courts; identify gaps and improve services to allow citizens to better represent themselves.
- Expand the number of video-conferencing units in locations in the court system that have access to video-conferencing.
- Improve training and resources and realign procedures to ensure needs of clients at the Office of Residential Tenancies are being met efficiently and effectively province wide to guide parties toward earlier dispute resolution.

- Engage with community partners of the Office of Residential Tenancies to expand educational opportunities for landlords and tenants about common residential tenancy issues.
- Develop an interactive online application database to provide landlords and tenants information about their respective rights and responsibilities when faced with residential tenancy issues to resolve the dispute sooner and where there is a need for adjudication tracking incidents to measure workload performance, consistency and timeliness of decisions.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Ministry Goal

Responsive and responsible government

Strategy

Ensure appropriate tools and infrastructure to deliver programs and services

Key Actions

- Continue development of the Integrated Justice Information System to combine core systems from Courts, Corrections, Prosecutions and Policing while continuing to align other support systems in other areas of justice.
- Implement a model of best practices for management through business process analysis for the effective delivery of administrative services within correctional facilities.
- Create a data warehouse in the Ministry and a business intelligence and data analytics framework. This will allow the Ministry to explore trends, improve services, remove barriers to information and improve decision making.
- Review the requirements for the improvement of a Court House in Pelican Narrows.
- Complete the first of two phases to replace the kitchen at the Prince Albert Provincial Correctional Centre. This project will address occupational health and safety concerns, health code violations and structural degradation.
- Implement lifecycle replacement of food services equipment in the custody facilities.
- Explore the potential of effectively implementing video-conferencing in the Office of Residential Tenancies hearing process.
- Make procedures transparent and key decisions accessible to resolve disputes sooner, help clients understand their rights and obligations, and prepare clients for the hearing process.

Highlights

The Ministry has received funding and resources in 2016-17 to address a number of items:

- to complete development of and provide operational support for the Integrated Justice information technology systems;
- to assume responsibility for the Highway Traffic Board;
- to fund the Common Business Identifier program which will make it easier for business and government to interact with each other;
- to consolidate government funding for the Healthy Families Initiative, a cross-government initiative that will address complex issues facing Saskatchewan's high-cost system-dependent families; and
- to replace the kitchen at the Prince Albert Correctional Centre and kitchen equipment at other custody facilities.

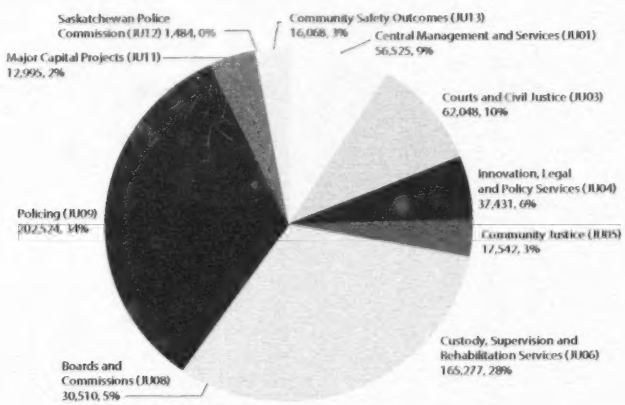
Financial Summary

2016-17 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services (JU01)	56,525
Courts and Civil Justice (JU03)	62,048
Innovation, Legal and Policy Services (JU04)	37,431
Community Justice (JU05)	17,542
Custody, Supervision and Rehabilitation Services (JU06)	165,227
Boards and Commissions (JU08)	30,510
Policing (JU09)	202,524
Capital and Improvements (JU11)	12,995
Saskatchewan Police Commission (JU12)	1,484
Community Safety Outcomes (JU13)	16,068
Total Appropriation	**602,354**
Capital Asset Acquisition	-12,995
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	5,037
TOTAL EXPENSE	**594,396**

Ministry FTE	**2,873.3**
Revolving Fund FTE	**13.0**
Victims' Fund FTE	**20.5**

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget

Ministry of Justice 2016-17 Appropriation
($000s)


Saskatchewan Police Commission (JU12) 1,484, 0%
Community Safety Outcomes (JU13) 16,068, 3%
Central Management and Services (JU01) 56,525, 9%
Major Capital Projects (JU11) 12,995, 2%
Courts and Civil Justice (JU03) 62,048, 10%
Innovation, Legal and Policy Services (JU04) 37,431, 6%
Policing (JU09) 202,524, 34%
Community Justice (JU05) 17,547, 3%
Custody, Supervision and Rehabilitation Services (JU06) 165,277, 28%
Boards and Commissions (JU08) 30,510, 5%

For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/justice